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the hands of an ally, was so great that the commerce of the South Sea became an important question in the relation of the two countries. It is principally to this subject that the third section is devoted (pp. 237-558). The question took the form in France of a conflict between political and economic interests, the former demanding satisfaction to Spain by absolute legal prohibition of this commerce and the latter demanding a continuation of this remunerative commerce either through violation of the law or through the employment of an official subterfuge in the form of a passport which was frequently used. Pontchartrain, Desmaretz, and even the great king himself were parties, either directly or indirectly, in sanctioning this subterfuge. As to the jealousy of the Dutch and English its importance is developed in the fourth section (pp. 561-729) which treats of the relation of the commerce of the South Sea to the War of the Spanish Succession. "It was this lucrative commerce above everything else which inspired jealousy in the enemies of France and a determination to put an end to it at all costs."

The abundant and accurate foot-notes reveal the author's knowledge of an extraordinary range of books and of his fruitful research in the manuscripts, chiefly, of the Archives Nationales and Archives des Affaires Étrangères at Paris and in the collection at Saint Servan. He has paid too little attention, I think, to the Archives Coloniales. By an examination, for instance, of volume III. and IV. of the Correspondance Générale de St. Domingue and of volume I. of the Correspondance de la Compagnie de St. Domingue he would have found some interesting light on the efforts of the French to establish a direct trade with the Spanish colonies before entering the South Sea. But it is to be chiefly regretted that the author did not extend his researches into the Spanish archives. The apology which he expresses for this in his introduction and on page 50 does not and cannot blind the student to the fact that it was with Spanish colonies that the French plied this trade and that the correspondence of the Spanish officials from Peru and Chili must throw some interesting light on this subject and should constitute an essential element in such a scholarly history.

STEWART L. MIMS.

*The Political History of England.* In Twelve Volumes. Edited by WILLIAM HUNT, D.Litt., and REGINALD L. POOLE, M.A., LL.D. Volume IX. *The History of England from the Accession of Anne to the Death of George II. (1702-1760).* By I. S. LEADAM, M.A. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1909. Pp. xx, 557.)

OBVIOUSLY Mr. Leadam stands in no need of Carlyle's warning to Froude not to write commentary on history instead of history itself. Yet a reviewer who follows the principle so ably defended by De Maupassant, that it is not the function of a critic to set up his own

standard but to ascertain the purpose of an author and to judge the performance accordingly, must, on the whole, estimate the present work favorably. In accordance with the aims of the series to which he is a contributor Mr. Leadam tells the story of the events which happened in England from 1702 to 1760 in a clear and orderly fashion, with little display of enthusiasm, generalization, or individual opinion. Evidently, however, he has read widely, and he weaves into his narrative a wealth of illustrative quotation, particularly from the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

The late Sir John Robert Seeley brought out for us the larger features of the eighteenth century, emphasizing its two leading characteristics: the development of cabinet government, and the expansion of England into the leading place among European nations as a commercial and colonizing power. Mr. George Macaulay Trevelyan in his *England under the Stuarts*, which in point of time precedes and partly overlaps the period under review, fills his pages with numberless suggestive interpretations of the events with which he had to deal. Mr. Leadam, on the other hand, is severely chronological and generally non-committal: the reader learns much of *wie es eigentlich gewesen ist* and little of *wie es eigentlich geworden ist*. Nevertheless, it would be unjust to leave the impression that the book is a mere arid chronicle. The author gives us several crisp and clean-cut estimates of the personages of the time, of Anne, of the first two Georges, of Queen Caroline, of Sunderland. Marlborough is well hit off with a few bold strokes, and the characterization of Sacheverell is most graphic. Again, the commercial causes of the War of the Spanish Succession are adequately discussed (pp. 5-6) and there is a pithy sketch of the growth of the power of the cabinet under the first Hanoverian (pp. 231-232). While there is none of that sustained brilliancy of style which made the reading of Mr. Fisher's book in the same series such a joy, one comes across, here and there, a neat and clever bit of phrasing. For example, "Bolingbroke himself", we are told, "lies under no suspicion of indulgence in the luxury of religious antipathy" (p. 212). Or what could be better than this? "The pretender returned despondent to Lorraine and contented himself with issuing a manifesto protesting against the usurper and proving with the aid of genealogical trees that there were fifty-seven other persons with a better title to the throne" (p. 225). Nevertheless, most of these things are crowded between serried ranks of details.

In view of this fact, and since most of the volumes are constructed on a similar plan, one may be pardoned for raising again the query as to the place which the Hunt and Poole series and the *Cambridge Modern History*, and similar undertakings are meant to fill. Certainly, the general reader can scarcely be expected to grope through such detailed accounts with no pillars of cloud or fire to guide his steps, while the specialist will not find sufficient citation or documentary evidence

for his purpose. Another point may be raised in this connection: the editors of this series have stated that it is their policy to confine the foot-notes so far as possible to original authorities. That doubtless explains why the author of the present volume, while citing Stanhope's exhaustive work in order to correct some of its statements, does not refer to it in other cases of manifest indebtedness.

Only a few more points can be selected for comment. Certain picturesque personalities flit across the pages like ghosts when a touch might have brought them to life, for example: that fine old sea-dog Benbow, the erratic Peterborough, Alberoni, in whom genius and buffoonery were strangely blended, and that "diplomatic bull-dog" Ripperda. Henry Fox is once more designated as a "political adventurer" (p. 412); strangely enough Macaulay's phrase is never put in quotation marks. The reader is deprived of a delicious morsel by the omission of all details of the brilliant debate on Hardwicke's Marriage Act. The Bangorian controversy and the consequent suspension of convocation deserve at least some mention.

Mr. Leadam has been so careful in matters of fact that almost nothing may be said on this head. The date for the declaration of war against Spain in 1739 (p. 363) is usually given as October 19, and since first-fruits and tenths were formerly paid to the pope, it is hardly correct to say (p. 43) that they were restored to the clergy. One would like a reason for attributing the invention of the term "broad-bottom" to Argyle (p. 383); Horace Walpole, apparently, did not regard him as the author. It is now generally recognized that Charles XII. had no intention of invading England in 1717; the whole scheme was a device to extort money from the Jacobites (pp. 275-276). Since Mr. Leadam adopts the view that Newcastle was a man of greater understanding than is commonly supposed (p. 384), and since he points out that the timid old intriguer anticipated Pitt's idea of concentrating the national energies in America (p. 448), it is strange that he does not consider Mr. Corbett's very conclusive explanation of the causes of his hesitancy at the opening of the Seven Years' War. Also, in treating of the siege of Quebec Durell's negligence and its importance are not mentioned, nor is Admiral Saunders given the credit due him for his part in making the campaign a success.

Several findings, certainly not generally known, might be recorded. Macaulay's hero Somers was evidently not above taking bribes (pp. 161, 173). It will be news to many that Oxford's wife and children attended a Presbyterian meeting-house (p. 218). The offer of George I. to surrender Gibraltar is held to have been a mere pretense (p. 310), and the affair of Wood's halfpence is presented in a light more favorable to the Irish than is usual among English writers (pp. 312-320). In the account of Prince Charlie's invasion of England in 1745 an able and convincing argument is presented to show that he stood little chance of success had he pressed on from Derby to London (p. 398).

Chapter v. on the union with Scotland seems far from adequate. Chapter XVIII. on literature and manners bristles so with names as to suggest a handbook of reference, although there are some judgments well and tersely expressed; for instance, the reference to a "society in which classical correctness commanded a more assured applause than poetic inspiration" (p. 482). On the other hand, a misplaced clause which makes Pepys "a man of unblemished character" (p. 489) is certainly a startling ambiguity. In the bibliography MacKinnon's and Mathieson's works on the union might have been mentioned, and likewise Andrew Lang's *Prince Charles Edward Stuart*. It is strange, too, that the word "cabinet" and the name Wood do not appear in the index. Among the excellent series of maps one of western Europe would have enabled the reader to follow the military history of the period more conveniently.

ARTHUR LYON CROSS.

*A History of Germany, 1715-1815.* By C. T. ATKINSON, Fellow and Modern History Lecturer of Exeter College. (London: Methuen and Company. 1908. Pp. xx, 732.)

THE title of "the best seller" in the publisher's list of novels is a wondrous thing, frequently showing more imagination and exciting more thought than the plot, because of its lack of relation to the theme. But a work of history ought not to be difficult to name with reasonable accuracy and the author if he misnames it has no defense in that he writes a preface explaining in what way the title is inexact. Mr. Atkinson's stout volume is not a history of Germany between 1715 and 1815. If he had called his volume a "Military History of Germany, 1715 to 1815", he would have described his work more accurately, and as he has done it reasonably well there would be no occasion for excuse in the preface. True there are chapters on diplomacy and administration, but they are only the baggage train from which the reader subsists as he marches from battlefield to battlefield. Altogether too frequently he is obliged to forage on other fields than those covered by the author in order to sustain his interest and to give body and life to the story of battles and campaigns.

The year 1715 and the treaties called by the name of Utrecht are an excellent starting point for work on the political history of almost any western European country, and 1815 is an equally good stopping point, especially for Germany. It is true as the author remarks that there was no unified German history in the century between these dates, but the fact remains that there was a Germany and the question for the historian is, how was the Germany on which Louis XIV. closed his eyes in 1715 different from the Germany into which Bismarck was born in 1815, and how had the change come about, or why was it not greater?

Mr. Atkinson does not think that the answer lies wholly in the history of Germany's wars but states simply that these are his special